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LIV. *Remarks upon the Heat of the Air in July 1757. in an Extract of a Letter from John Huxham, M.D. F.R.S. to William Watſon, M.D. F.R.S. dated at Plymouth 19th of that Month. With additional Remarks by Dr. Watſon.*

Read Dec. 22, 1757. “ **F**ROM the beginning of June laſt we have had a very dry ſeaſon, generally very warm, and ſometimes exceſſively hot. From the 7th to the 14th of this month the heat was violent; greater, indeed, than has been known here in the memory of man. I have talked with ſeveral perſons, who have lived a conſiderable time in Jamaica, Gibraltar, and Minorca; and they ſeverally aſſert, that they never felt ſuch intense heat in any of thoſe places. Upon the 11th, 12th, and 13th of this month, Fahrenheit’s thermometer, in the ſhade, about three o’ clock in the afternoon, was at 87; nay, upon the 12th it was even above 88.

“ Abundance of people have ſuffered very ſeverely from theſe exceſſive heats: putrid, bilious, pe- techial, nervous fevers, are exceedingly common every-where. Dyſenteries, hæmorrhages, moſt profuſe ſweats, affect not only thoſe in fevers, but a vaſt many others. The days and nights were ſo intolerably hot, that little or no ſleep was to be gotten day or night. The wind we had, like the Campſin, actually blew hot, tho’ ſtrong.

“ Upon

“ Upon the 15th, about seven at night, at Fal-  
 “ mouth, Penryn, Truro, and thereabouts, a pretty  
 “ smart shock of an earthquake was felt, attended  
 “ with a hollow rumbling noise, throwing down  
 “ pewter, china-ware, and such-like. The tinnern  
 “ felt it eighty fathom under ground. No great  
 “ damage however was done. The day before we  
 “ had, about eleven o’clock before noon, a most  
 “ violent hurricane, which lasted five or six minutes,  
 “ attended with a heavy shower.”

Thus far Dr. Huxham.

The heat of the air at London, during the period  
 above-mentioned, was much greater than has been  
 usually observed in these high latitudes; tho’ it was  
 never quite so severe here as at Plymouth. The fol-  
 lowing table exhibits the degrees of the heat, taken  
 here upon the respective days, about four o’clock in  
 the afternoon, by a Fahrenheit’s thermometer. The  
 instrument was placed in the shade; and the accuracy  
 of the observer, who favoured me with his minutes,  
 is not to be questioned.

1757. July	5	—	—	75
	6	—	—	78
	7	—	—	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
	8	—	—	78
	10	—	—	80 $\frac{3}{4}$
	11	—	—	83 $\frac{1}{4}$
	12	—	—	80 $\frac{3}{4}$
	13	—	—	80
	14	—	—	85
	15	—	—	81
	16	—	—	73

From

From hence it appears, that the air at London was, upon several days, hotter than it had been observed at Madeira for ten years together : for, by Dr. Thomas Heberden's observations, mentioned in the Philosophical Transactions, the heat of the air at Madeira, during that period, was never but once at 80.

William Watson.

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LV. *Remarks upon the Letter of Mr. John Ellis, F. R. S. to Philip Carteret Webb, Esq; F. R. S. printed in the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. xlix. Part ii. p. 806. By Mr. Philip Miller, F. R. S.*

Read Dec. 15. 1757. **T**HE paper of mine, which was read before the Royal Society on the 8th of May 1755, and afterward printed in the xlixth volume of the Philosophical Transactions \*, was written at the request of Mr. Watson ; who informed me, that a letter from the Abbé Mazeas to the reverend Dr. Hales had been communicated to the Royal Society, in which it was mentioned, that the Abbé Sauvages had made a discovery of the juice of the Carolina Toxicodendron staining linen of a permanent black. But Mr. Watson said, that the letter, he thought, required a careful perusal before it was printed ; and he wished I would confirm it. I told

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\* Part I. p. 161.

him,